

# the physiatrist

The official membership publication of the  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

MAY 2024 / VOL 40 / ISSUE 5

## MEMBER MAY

pg 6 **#AAPMR24 REGISTRATION OPENS THIS MONTH**

pg 10 **AAPM&R REGISTRY STEERING COMMITTEE - GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS**

pg 13 **CMS ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF THE IRF RCD TO PENNSYLVANIA**

## MEMBER MAY

is Bigger and Better in 2024

**#AAPMR24  
REGISTRATION  
OPENS THIS  
MONTH!**

TURN TO PAGE 6  
TO LEARN MORE.

Join us this year as we bring our members together for a full month of **free virtual education and networking!** View the full schedule of all our happenings at [aapmr.org/membermay](https://aapmr.org/membermay).

We are so excited to have you join us for 25+ sessions happening throughout the month of May; with 25 Member Communities sessions, our National Grand Rounds and new Physiatrist-in-Training Board hosted sessions. We cannot wait for you to take advantage of all that there is to offer!

These events will be free, open to all Academy members and hosted through AAPM&R's Online Learning Portal ([onlinelearning.aapmr.org](https://onlinelearning.aapmr.org)).



**TURN TO PAGE 3 TO  
SEE THE COMPLETE  
LIST OF SESSIONS.**



D.J. Kennedy  
MD, FAAPMR

## The Power of PM&R: Working Together, We are Stronger

D.J. Kennedy, MD, FAAPMR  
AAPM&R President; Professor and Chair Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Vanderbilt Center for Musculoskeletal Research

The strength of PM&R lies in our unity. When PM&R physicians come together under the umbrella of AAPM&R, we become a formidable force, capable of driving meaningful change and advancing the impact of our specialty within healthcare. To date, more than 15,000 physicians have been board-certified in PM&R.

We all bring our unique perspectives, experiences and expertise to the table, and we have an unparalleled opportunity to support and uplift one another. Fortunately, the Academy is focused on efforts to build and enhance the unity of our field.

In 2023, AAPM&R launched Member May, a month-long initiative offering members the chance to participate in a wide range of free educational and networking sessions. These sessions provided a platform for members to connect, learn and grow together, fostering a sense of community and collaboration. Due to its success, Member May is set to return in 2024, with even more sessions

planned throughout the month. From clinical insights to practice management tips, these events cater to the diverse needs and interests of our membership, further strengthening our collective knowledge and skills. Watch [aapmr.org/membermay](https://aapmr.org/membermay) for more information. These events will be free, open to all Academy members and hosted through AAPM&R's Online Learning Portal ([onlinelearning.aapmr.org](https://onlinelearning.aapmr.org)). Some will also have CME.

Member May is just one example of AAPM&R's commitment to fostering a sense of community and inclusion among its members. With more than 45 Member Communities (hosted on [PhyzForum.org](https://PhyzForum.org)), we have the opportunity to join groups tailored to our specific clinical, practice and identity-focused interests. Regardless of the focus of each group, these communities all provide a space for members to connect with like-minded individuals, share resources, and collaborate on initiatives that advance our specialty.

Physiatrists represent a diverse group of individuals with various backgrounds, subspecialties, practice locations, and even political beliefs. However, despite our differences, we are united by our shared commitment to advance care for patients with disabling conditions.

By embracing the richness of the multiple aspects of our diversity, we can ensure that every member of our community feels included, valued, respected, and empowered to engage and contribute their unique perspectives and talents to advance our field. Thus, diversity and inclusion are not just buzzwords; they are fundamental principles that drive engagement, progress and innovation within PM&R.

The Inclusion and Engagement (I&E) Strategic Coordinating Committee plays a pivotal role in this endeavor. As the inaugural chair of this committee, I had the privilege of spearheading initiatives aimed at fostering an inclusive and engaging environment within AAPM&R. The focus continues to be not merely acknowledging the diversity within our ranks but celebrating it and leveraging it for the growth and progress of our field.

In line with this vision, AAPM&R recently launched its first class of Innovators and Influencers. This group is a diverse cadre of physiatrists who are committed to advancing PM&R on a national scale and in this issue we recognize more than 20 PM&R physicians who are making a difference and advancing the specialty. They embody the spirit of innovation and influence that we strive to cultivate within our Academy, and they serve as a testament to the great things we can achieve when we embrace our diversity and engage collectively toward our shared goals. If you want to find out more about this specific program please go to: [aapmr.org/innovatorsandinfluencers](https://aapmr.org/innovatorsandinfluencers).

Together, when we are collectively united as PM&R physicians in the AAPM&R, our potential is limitless as we continue our journey through the ever-changing landscape of healthcare. So let's embrace our diversity, support one another, and march forward with determination and purpose, knowing that our collective strength knows no bounds.

[ Continued from front cover ]

# MEMBER MAY VIRTUAL SESSIONS



The following Member Communities will be holding a Member May session:

- **Adaptive Athletes and Sports\***  
Johan Latorre, MD, MS, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Age-Friendly Care in Rehabilitation**  
Mooyeon Oh-Park, MD, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Alternative Pain Medicine\***  
Bruce Hsu, MD, MBA, MS, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Amputee/Limb Loss Restoration Rehabilitation**  
Prateek Grover, MD, PhD, MHA, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Asian Physiatrists**  
Raymond Chou, MD, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Cancer Rehabilitation Medicine**  
Leslie Bagay, MD, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Central Nervous System\***  
Diane Mortimer, MD, MSN, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Early-Career Physiatrists**  
Elizabeth Martin, MD, MPH, MHS, FAAPMR, Co-Chair and Mary Elise McClanahan, MD, FAAPMR, Co-Chair
- **Inpatient Rehabilitation**  
Craig DiTommaso, MD, FAAPMR, Chair
- **International Rehabilitation and Global Health\***  
Niña Carmela Tamayo, DO, MS, MPH, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Interventional Pain**  
Gurtej Singh, MD, FAAPMR, Chair
- **LatinX in Physiatry**  
Sol Abreu-Sosa, MD, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Muslim Physiatrists\***  
Zainab Al Lawati, MD, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Neuromuscular Medicine and EDX\***  
Colin Franz, MD, PhD, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Overhead Athlete\***  
Ryan Nussbaum, DO, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Pediatric Rehabilitation\***  
Kimberly Hartman, MD, MHPE, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine Fellowship Program Directors**  
Karl Klamar, MD, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Pediatric Sports Medicine\***  
Ami Hampole, DO, Chair
- **Performing Arts Medicine\***  
Tracy Espiritu McKay, DO, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Research in Physiatry\***  
Patricia Zheng, MD, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Running Medicine**  
Sara Raiser, MD, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Spasticity Management**  
Zachary Bohart, MD, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Sports Medicine**  
Cleo Stafford, II, MD, MS, FAAPMR, Chair
- **Sports Medicine Current Fellows and Future Candidates**  
Crystal Graff, MD, Chair
- **Women Physiatrists\***  
Sony Issac, MD, FAAPMR, Chair

\*Indicates session will have free CME.

**TURN TO THE BACK COVER TO EXPLORE MORE FREE AAPM&R EDUCATION!**

These events will be free, open to all Academy members and hosted through AAPM&R's Online Learning Portal. Visit [aapmr.org/membermay](https://aapmr.org/membermay) to register and find session dates and times.





Jonathan Whiteson  
MD, FAAPMR

## Member May

Jonathan Whiteson, MD, FAAPMR  
Co-Editor, *The Physiatrist*, Professor, Rehabilitation Medicine, NYU School of Medicine  
NYU Langone Health, Rusk Rehabilitation Vice Chair, Clinical Operations; Medical Director,  
Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Each month of the year might hold a unique and special meaning to us. Our birthday month (mine is in March) – that’s an obvious one! The month of a special anniversary, the birth of your child, the month you got your hard-earned promotion... June is a ‘pivotal’ month – it sees the daylight hours start to wane, but December holds that promise of longer days and warmer weather ahead. November is Thanksgiving – a universally loved national holiday, as well as (normally) the gathering of our physical medicine and rehabilitation ‘family’ at AAPM&R Annual Assembly! The month of May holds special meaning for me in the seasonal calendar – we are now well beyond winter and damp springs are in the rear-view mirror. In May we are firmly on the threshold of steamy summer days. Cinco-de-Mayo, Mother’s Day and Memorial Day are but a few of the celebrations we can look forward to this month. Back ‘home’ in England, May Day was the holiday marking the calendar. A European festival dating back to Floralia – the ancient Roman festival of the Roman goddess of flowers, Flora – May 1 across much of England and Europe traditionally was celebrated with the wearing of floral garlands, crowning of the May Queen (and more recently a May King as well) and

dancing round the maypole. Festivities and joviality at its finest! Truly a ‘Merry Month of May’ (poem by Thomas Dekker (c. 1572–1632))!



Triumph of Flora by Tiepolo (ca. 1743)



Maypole dancing in the Netherlands, by Pieter Brueghel the Younger (16th century).



Dancing round the maypole celebrating May Day, England

In keeping with the celebratory nature of this month, May offers us the opportunity to gather and participate in the Academy’s Member May activities. While our maypole and tethers may be figurative, we feel the connection to and the support from AAPM&R – we are a united community. Hopefully you have set aside some time to participate in the member community activities available. View the full schedule at [aapmr.org/membermay](http://aapmr.org/membermay).

Member May is also a time, like the season, for rejuvenation. We have an opportunity to take ownership and work on our own personal as well as our professional wellness and prepare ourselves and our specialty to triumph over the challenges that an ever-evolving health system throws our way.

Being prepared, supported and nimble enhances our personal well-being as well as our ability to both individually and collectively stay ahead and in control of our working environment. Your Academy supports and positions physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians as the essential medical experts in value-based evaluation, diagnosis and management of neuromusculoskeletal and disabling conditions, as well as the indispensable leaders in directing rehabilitation and recovery, vital to optimizing outcomes and function early and throughout the continuum of patient care.

This vision for the specialty offers exciting new opportunities for physical medicine and rehabilitation and will be realized in different ways across the field’s diverse practice settings. Learn more about our BOLD vision at [aapmr.org/about-aapm-r/visioning-pm-r-bold](http://aapmr.org/about-aapm-r/visioning-pm-r-bold).

PM&R BOLD – an initiative driven by healthcare change and the need to support our members to continue to thrive – has impacted the way your Academy supports you and help strengthen the specialty. An example of your Academy’s commitment to supporting you is the **Innovative Payment and Practice Models (IPPM) Committee**, dedicated to addressing innovative payment and practice models aligned with supporting the vision for our specialty. IPPM researches progressive practice and payment models to determine the potential to support physiatrists and advance physiatry. IPPM also works to disseminate knowledge about alternative payment models and/or care models to Academy members and other stakeholders.

In January 2024, the IPPM Committee launched two new value-based payment resources. The **Stroke Rehabilitation and Spine Care Toolkits** were created to serve as guides for Academy members who are seeking to implement PM&R-led stroke rehabilitation and spine care alternative payment models (APMs) in their practice or payment system. The toolkits provide information on value-based care models, appropriate outcomes, economic and payment considerations and current medical research to support the premise of the APM. The goal of these toolkits is to support opportunities for members to approach healthcare systems and payors to encourage stroke rehabilitation and spine care APM adoption and innovate the systems of care to provide enhanced and progressive rehabilitation throughout the continuum. Find more information at [aapmr.org/quality-practice/quality-reporting/alternative-payment-models](http://aapmr.org/quality-practice/quality-reporting/alternative-payment-models).

**Physician burnout and physician wellness** is a major focus for AAPM&R. We know and experience our specialty as having one of the highest rates of burnout, dissatisfaction and unhappiness in all of medicine. Our advocacy priorities are aimed at combating some of the main causes of burnout including defending physiatrists against practice encroachment, fighting for improved PM&R physician payment, and fighting to reduce physiatrist burden by removing prior authorization barriers. Learn more about our advocacy priorities at [aapmr.org/advocacy/current-priorities](http://aapmr.org/advocacy/current-priorities).

Our **Specialty Brand Expansion efforts** are aimed at executing a new plan to showcase the specialty’s medical expertise and increase awareness and value of the specialty by key stakeholders. The goal is to support you and your efforts to position yourself early and throughout the continuum of healthcare. Find out more about this important work at [aapmr.org/about-aapm-r/visioning-pm-r-bold/advancing-the-awareness-and-value-of-pm-r](http://aapmr.org/about-aapm-r/visioning-pm-r-bold/advancing-the-awareness-and-value-of-pm-r).

Additionally, we have been involved in a collaborative research study with the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR) and the Association of Academic Physiatrists (AAP) to address burnout and PM&R physician wellness. Our primary goals are to determine variability in the experience of burnout in different PM&R subspecialties and the factors that contribute to burnout at both the individual and system level. We also seek to identify and inform development of interventions to reduce burnout and improve professional fulfillment among physiatrists. Read more about these efforts at [aapmr.org/advocacy/current-priorities/reducing-physician-burden](http://aapmr.org/advocacy/current-priorities/reducing-physician-burden).

So be proactive and turn ‘May-be?’ into ‘May-be-YES and leave ‘May-be-not’ far behind us. Let’s celebrate Member May and the incredible transformative work you do every day for your patients, recognizing that AAPM&R is our partner, supporting us and making the difference for us in our healthcare system.



## Academy in Action

### AAPM&R is Fighting Against PM&R Physician Fee Cuts and For Improved PM&R Physician Payment

- After extensive outreach from the Academy and the entire House of Medicine, Congress passed a partial government funding package, which was signed into law by President Biden on March 9. This legislation included an update to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) Conversion Factor. This week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the conversion factor for dates March 9-December 31, 2024, is \$33.29. This change is not retroactive to the beginning of the year, services provided on January 1-March 8 will be paid at the previous 2024 conversion factor, which was \$33.07.
- Matthew Grierson, MD, FAAPMR, Clarice Sinn, DO, FAAPMR, Carlo Milani, MD, MBA, FAAPMR and Esther Yoon, MD, FAAPMR attended the April meeting of the American Medical Association (AMA) Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC) in Chicago, IL.
- The Academy joined the Multisociety Pain Workgroup in urging Humana to revise its coverage policy for peripheral nerve stimulation with an emphasis on consistency with CMS policy.
- The Academy joined the Multisociety Pain Workgroup in urging UnitedHealthcare to change its policy of non-coverage for basivertebral nerve ablation.





## #AAPMR24 REGISTRATION OPENS THIS MONTH!

We can't wait to welcome you to our annual meeting! Plan to join us November 6-10 in San Diego, CA and online, where we'll be showcasing *The Power of PM&R*.

The AAPMR Annual Assembly is psychiatry's premier educational and networking event of the year, and we have some exciting things planned. Participate in the best-of-the-best PM&R education, enjoy valuable networking experiences with your peers and discover top-notch psychiatric research.

In addition to all of the great clinical and practice education (80+ sessions!), we're also hosting the Job and Fellowship Fair, three Pre-Conference Courses, four inspiring Plenaries (including social media sensation, Dr. Glaucomflecken), a re-imagined PM&R Pavilion and Research Hub, and the PM&R Party... on the USS Midway. You won't want to miss all the excitement and activities in store as meet in-person in sunny San Diego.

### New in 2024—You Asked, We Answered...

We heard that you wanted more advanced content, so we're adding **Advanced Clinical Focus Days on Thursday, Friday and Saturday**, which will highlight advanced content in these clinical areas: pain and spine, pediatrics, cancer rehabilitation, inpatient rehabilitation, musculoskeletal and neurorehabilitation. (18 total sessions with three designated time blocks for each topic)

Our PM&R Pavilion is getting a make-over. It will be THE place to see the latest PM&R innovations, meet with colleagues and friends, take part in interactive education and live demonstrations, and relax in our new café and lounge with all-day coffee and snacks.

### #AAPMR24 is More Inclusive Than Ever

We'll be offering a virtual attendance option again this year so that all psychiatrists can participate! Virtual attendees will enjoy access to all the great education that the Assembly is known for—online from their home or office—with even more live-streamed content. Plus, we're bringing back onsite child care for those attendees traveling with children.

Make plans to attend #AAPMR24. Registration opens this month, so watch your inbox or visit [aapmr.org/2024](https://aapmr.org/2024) to learn more.

## MORE #AAPMR24 CALL FORS—OPENING SOON!

### Call for PhysTalks—May 29 through June 26

Make plans to submit your story for the chance to become a featured presenter at our 2024 Annual Assembly. Styled after TED Talks®, PhysTalks are 8-12-minute live presentations that tell a compelling and impactful psychiatry-focused story. Top submissions will be invited to present their stories to the PM&R community during #AAPMR24 in-person in San Diego, where the winner who is chosen by the audience, will receive a complimentary registration to #AAPMR25 in Salt Lake City (October 22-26).

Check out last year's presentations for inspiration. Our submission portal will open on May 29, but start planning your talk now. Learn more at [aapmr.org/phys talks](https://aapmr.org/phys talks). Submissions are due by June 26.

## PhysTalks



## Foundation For PM&R is Critical to the Survival of the Field

Ross Zafonte, DO, FAAPMR; President, Foundation for PM&R



Our field is facing urgent, multifaceted challenges and threats ranging from evolving healthcare needs due to demographic shifts and the rising burden of chronic conditions, to the necessity of adapting to rapidly advancing technologies. To effectively navigate these challenges and position ourselves for success, we must champion **innovation through research. Embracing discovery not only enables us to address current gaps in patient care but also equips us with the tools to proactively tackle future challenges.**

Investment in research and development has been the cornerstone of progress in scientific and technology fields. PM&R is no exception, and our collective investment in its future is paramount. The Foundation for PM&R needs your support to:

- ✔ **Support Future Innovators:** Donating to the PM&R Foundation directly contributes to the growth of young investigators in the field of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R). These individuals represent the future of rehabilitation research and development.
- ✔ **Provide Critical Pilot Funding:** The Foundation serves as a crucial source of pilot funding for research projects that advance the understanding and treatment of physical disabilities. Your contribution directly fuels ground-breaking studies and projects, giving researchers the pilot data they need to secure multimillion dollar grants for game-changing studies.
- ✔ **Build a Strong Foundation for Rehabilitation:** By investing in the Foundation, you help build the evidence base for patient-focused, outcomes-centered care, which is vital for access to, and reimbursement for, psychiatric intervention.
- ✔ **Improve Quality-of-Life:** The research supported by the Foundation directly translates into improved patient care and outcomes. Your donation has a tangible and positive effect on the lives of individuals with physical disabilities, enhancing their quality-of-life through advancements in rehabilitation practices.
- ✔ **Unify Psychiatry:** Donating to the Foundation for PM&R fosters a sense of community and collaboration within the field. It brings together like-minded individuals who share a passion for advancing PM&R, creating a network of support and shared knowledge.
- ✔ **Invest in the Future of Healthcare:** PM&R plays a vital role in the broader landscape of healthcare. Your contribution is an investment in the future of healthcare, promoting research and development that not only benefits individuals with physical disabilities but also contributes to the overall advancement of medical science.
- ✔ **100% Success Rate:** The track record speaks for itself – every single grant recipient from the last 10 years is still actively engaged in research. Your donation contributes to a legacy of success, fostering a community of dedicated professionals committed to advancing PM&R.

**Be a Catalyst for Change!** Your donation is more than a financial contribution; it's a catalyst for positive change in the field of PM&R. It empowers researchers, inspires innovation, and ultimately leads to a brighter and more inclusive future for individuals with physical disabilities. Please donate today! [www.foundationforpmr.org/donate-now](https://www.foundationforpmr.org/donate-now) or text "PMRresearch" to 50155. Thank you!



### Academy in Action

**AAPMR is Working to Preserve Psychiatrists' Expertise in Determining Medical Necessity in Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Admissions**

- CMS announced that the IRF Review Choice Demonstration (RCD) project will expand to Pennsylvania on June 17, 2024. This project, which is currently underway in the state of Alabama, involves 100% review of all IRF claims. The Academy has been actively engaged with CMS and its contractors as this project has been implemented, and will continue to ensure that psychiatry is represented during this new stage. See page 12 for more information.



### Academy in Action

**AAPMR is Advocating for Expanded Practice Models and Enhanced Ways for Psychiatrists to Advance Patient Care through Innovative Strategies**

- Robert Rinaldi, MD, FAAPMR attended the Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS) annual conference in Orlando, FL on March 11-15, 2024.



## Inclusion and Engagement Committee Meeting Recap

Carla P. Watson, MD, FAAPMR (Chair)

The Inclusion & Engagement Committee had their annual in-person meeting February 15-16 at AAPM&R's headquarters in Rosemont, IL. With the new year in full swing, we were excited to tackle the important task of working on our portion of the strategic plan for this year. As one of the Strategic Coordinating Committees, our meeting focused on evaluating and setting priorities for AAPM&R's new strategic plan focusing on goals related to inclusion, engagement and diversity.

The Inclusion & Engagement committee members reviewed and evaluated our current initiatives to determine their impact on the overall Academy goals and objectives as well as membership. These initiatives support Academy goals including:

- Cultivate a diverse and vibrant community of PM&R physicians who are unified in their connection to the specialty and consider membership in AAPM&R to be essential to advancing their individual careers and the specialty.
- Vigorously advocate for the well-being of PM&R physicians as they advance optimal care for patients.
- Support and guide PM&R physicians in their practices for optimal success as healthcare transforms.

We discussed current initiatives overseen by our committees including:

- Engagement with Member Communities throughout the year and through Member May
- Future Leaders Program
- Innovators & Influencers Honoree Program
- Engagement at different career stages including new networking opportunities debuted at the 2023 Annual Assembly
- And many more under the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Membership Committee and Psychiatrists in Training Council Board

We also discussed areas of increased focus including:

- Importance of physician wellness
- Early engagement of medical students
- Supporting program directors and coordinators

As we plan for an engaging year ahead, we look forward to working with our dedicated volunteer members to support and build programs geared toward our growing, vibrant and diverse membership.



Carla P. Watson MD, FAAPMR



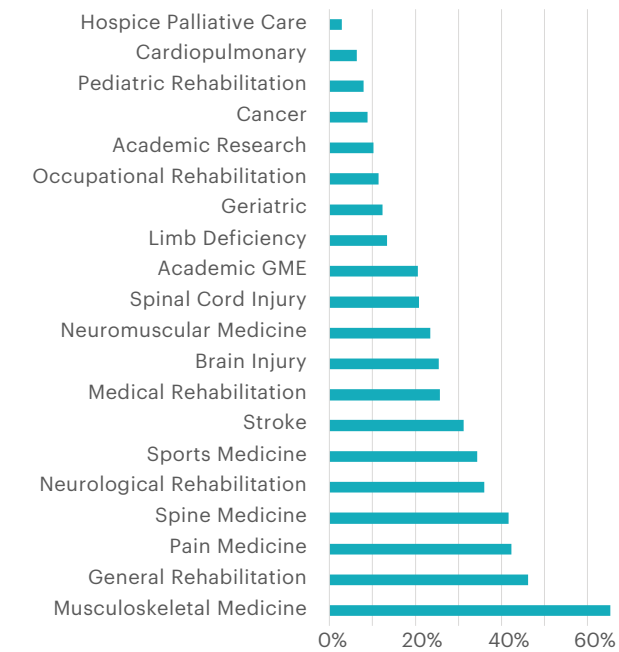
**From Left to Right:** Kayla M. Williams, MD, FAAPMR, Carla P. Watson, MD, FAAPMR (Chair), Keneshia M. Kirksey, MD, MBA, FAAPMR, Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, MD, FAAPMR, Michael R. Yochelson, MD, MBA, FAAPMR, and William Mosi Jones, MD, FAAPMR  
Not pictured: Ricky Ju, DO (PHIT Board Liaison)

## Member Insights

Our Inclusion and Engagement Committee is committed to understanding members better and fostering an inclusive environment. This summary offers insights into the AAPM&R membership based on self-reported profile information. Data is current as of March 2024.

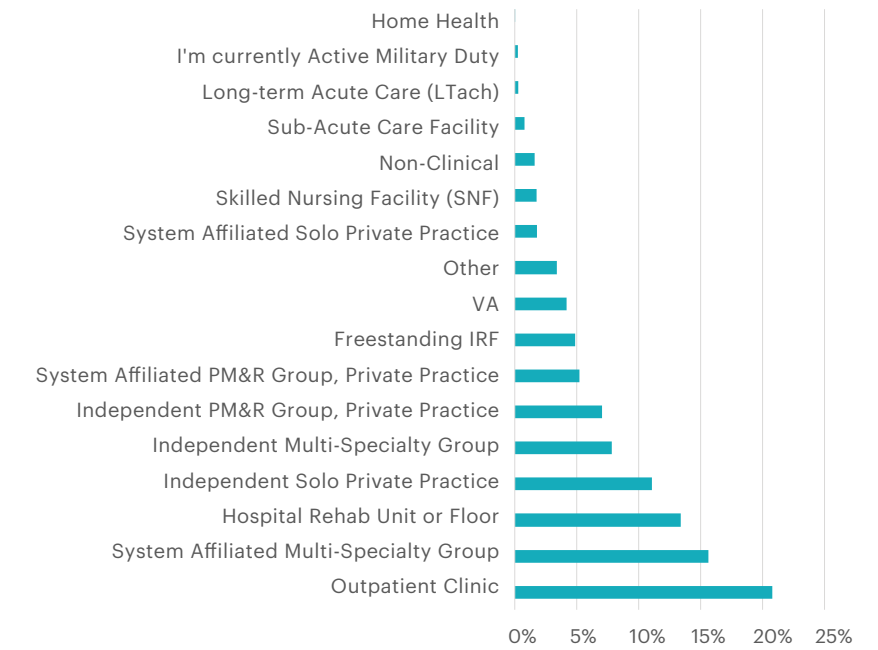
### Areas of Practice

Of members who reported. Each member can select up to 5 areas based upon current patient population.



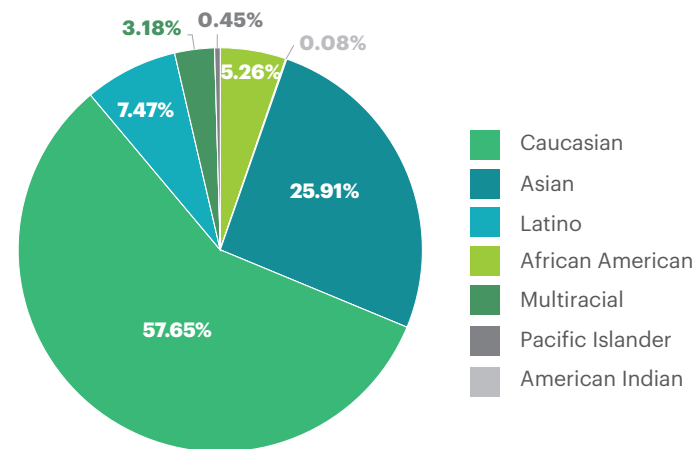
### Primary Practice Setting

Of members who reported.



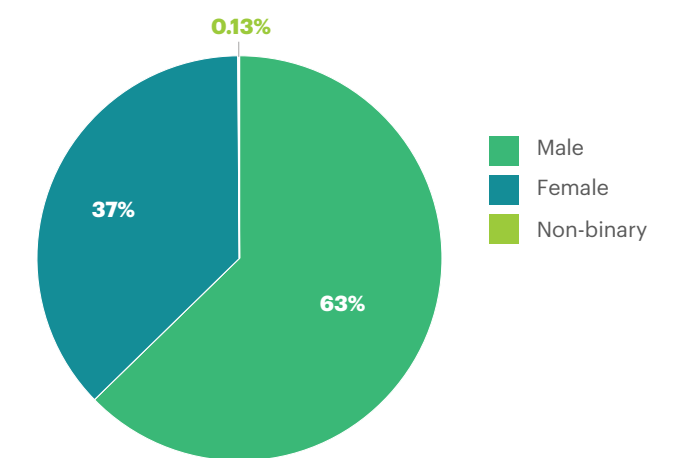
### Race/Ethnicity Identity

Of members who reported at least one race/ethnicity value. Members may select as many categories that apply.



### Gender Identity

Of members who reported.



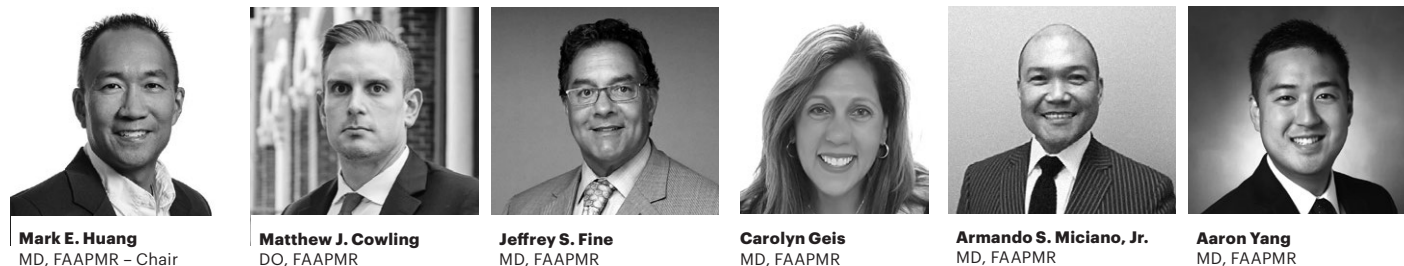


## AAPM&R's Registry Steering Committee—Getting Down to Business

The Registry Steering Committee held their first of two strategic planning meetings in March. During this meeting, the committee discussed and finalized their goals for the year. Their goals include:


- Actively recruit new Registry participants and sites. If you are interested in learning more about the Registry, please contact us at [registry@aapmr.org](mailto:registry@aapmr.org) and we can set up a call with you and one of our committee members!
- Update and implement the Registry Recognition Program that acknowledges the individual physiatrist, the PM&R department and the participating Institution.
- Develop and implement Registry education for our members. Not only does the committee want to educate the membership on the Registry itself, but they want to focus in on Patient-Reported Outcomes and Real-World Data.
- Increase our Patient Reported Outcomes response rates with new and innovative technology and education for both Registry participants and patients.
- Data Analysis Needs – with more than 7700 unique patients, the Registry Steering Committee wants to start exploring our data analysis needs.

The Registry Steering Committee oversees the design, implementation and management of AAPM&R's Registry. This includes oversight of both operations and technical elements. Steering Committee members include:



## Thank You, Registry Participants

On this Member May, AAPM&R wants to thank our Data Collection Champions! The participants recognized below are leading their organization's data collection efforts through AAPM&R's Registry in the areas of ischemic stroke and low back pain.

Matthew Danielson, MD, FAAPMR  
Joseph Cunniff, DC, DO, FAAPMR  
Jackson Maddux, MD, FAAPMR  
Terri Peterson, MD, FAAPMR  
Joy McIver, MD, FAAPMR



Trevor Paris, MD, FAAPMR  
Kenneth Ngo, MD, FAAPMR  
Howard Weiss, DO, FAAPMR  
Geneva Tonuzi, MD, FAAPMR  
Cassandra List, MD, FAAPMR  
Parag Shah, MD, FAAPMR



Alexios Carayannopoulos, DO, MPH, DABPMR, FFS, FAAPMR  
Claudia Wheeler, DO, FAAPMR  
Mustapha Kemal, DO, FAAPMR



an affiliation of  and 


Thy Huskey, MD, FAAPMR  
Sindhu Jacob, MD, FAAPMR



Monica Rho, MD, FAAPMR  
Maria Reese, MD, FAAPMR  
Samuel Chu, MD, FAAPMR  
Prakash Jayabalan, MD, PhD, FAAPMR  
Sarah Hwang, MD, FAAPMR  
Benjamin Friedman, MD, FAAPMR  
Richard Harvey, MD, FAAPMR  
Priya Mhatre, MD, FAAPMR  
Elliot Roth, MD, FAAPMR  
Sangeeta Patel Driver, MD, MPH, FAAPMR  
Hollis Bell, MD, FAAPMR  
Kathryn Altonji, MD, FAAPMR  
Nenad Brkic, MD, FAAPMR  
Natasha Bhatia, MD, FAAPMR



Jeffery Fine, MD, FAAPMR  
Brian Im, MD, FAAPMR  
Heidi Fusco, MD, FAAPMR  
Amit Bansal, DO, FAAPMR  
Sofiya Prilik, MD, FAAPMR  
Jeffrey Cohen, MD, FAAPMR



Jeffery Johns, MD, FAAPMR  
Clausyl Plummer, MD, FAAPMR  
Vartgez Mansourian, MD, FAAPMR



Angela Beninga, DO, FAAPMR  
Eric Shaw, DO, FAAPMR  
Brock Bowman, MD, FAAPMR  
Wes Chay, MD, FAAPMR  
Anna Elmers, MD, FAAPMR  
James Liadis, MD, FAAPMR



D.J. Kennedy, MD, FAAPMR  
Byron Schneider, MD, FAAPMR  
Aaron Yang, BS, MD, FAAPMR

# aapm&r Registry

Better Practice. Better Outcomes.

### Be the Change Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Needs

Become an AAPM&R Registry participant and join like-minded individuals who want to make a positive impact on patient outcomes and the profession. Contact us at [registry@aapmr.org](mailto:registry@aapmr.org).

### Participation Details

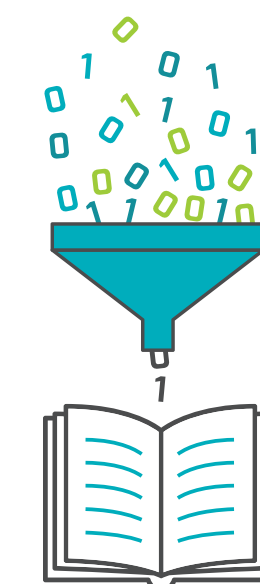
AAPM&R's Registry collects high-quality, clinician and patient data across independent physician practices and larger institutions for use in generating insights to inform best practices, guide pioneering research and improve patient care.

To help achieve these goals, AAPM&R's Registry has **two programs centered on ischemic stroke and low-back pain**, two critical areas that many physiatrists treat. The Registry will expand data collection efforts to other clinical areas in the future.

We're looking for sites that are:

- Highly-motivated, QI-centric centers
- Are currently collecting and/or ready to begin collecting Patient-Report Outcomes (PROs)
- Will provide feedback to the AAPM&R Registry Steering Committee to continuously evaluate and evolve the Registry

Learn more at [aapmr.org/registry](http://aapmr.org/registry) or email [registry@aapmr.org](mailto:registry@aapmr.org) to get started on your data collection journey.



## Virtual Medical Student Program and Residency Fair—Coming in August!

AAPM&R's virtual Medical Student Program will be held on **Thursday, August 15 from 5-8 pm (CT)**. During our virtual program, attendees will learn all about the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation and why this multi-disciplinary specialty is right for you. Participants will hear from leaders in the field, current residents and those in fellowship about why they've chosen an exciting career in physiatry.

Sessions include:

- History of PM&R
- Different practice areas within PM&R
- Specialty lecture
- Resident and Fellow panel

Last year, more than 335 medical students attended our virtual didactic program and provided very positive feedback. Plan to join us – it's FREE for AAPM&R medical student members! Learn more at [aapmr.org/medicalstudentprogram](http://aapmr.org/medicalstudentprogram).

In addition to the Medical Student Program, the Academy will be hosting the **virtual Residency Fair on Tuesday, August 20 from 5-8 pm (CT)**. The Residency Fair is part of AAPM&R's annual "Understanding PM&R" Medical Student Program, allowing for face-to-face interaction between program directors (and/or representatives of each individual programs) and medical students who are interested in PM&R. It introduces medical students to the specialty and what it means to be a physiatrist. *Stay tuned for more information – coming soon!*



## ADVOCACY AND INNOVATION

### CMS Announces Expansion of the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Review Choice Demonstration to Pennsylvania

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced on March 1 that the IRF Review Choice Demonstration (RCD) project will expand to the state of Pennsylvania on June 17, 2024.

The RCD involves CMS contractors reviewing all Medicare Fee-For-Service claims for inpatient rehabilitation services in any states that are covered by this demonstration project. IRFs can either select 100% pre-claim review or 100% post-payment review for their patients. CMS' goal for this demonstration project is to reduce the number of Medicare appeals for IRF services and improve provider compliance with Medicare program rules, without altering the Medicare IRF benefit or delaying care for Medicare beneficiaries.

The window for IRFs to choose either pre-claim or post-payment review for the RCD in Pennsylvania will be from May 3 to June 2 of this year, and this information will need to be submitted to the Medicare contractor for the Pennsylvania section of this project, Novitas.

*"The expansion of the Review Choice Demonstration project to Pennsylvania will be hugely impactful for all physiatrists who practice in the IRF setting in our state. Given that this project has the potential to increase administrative burden on physiatrists, the Academy and PM&R leaders will continue to engage with CMS and its contractors to ensure that the voice of physiatry is heard and that the patients who rely on us for rehabilitative care continue to receive the high-quality care that they need and deserve."*



— Kerry Gill DeLuca, MD, FAAPMR, member of AAPM&R's Health Policy and Legislation Committee

The RCD project was announced by CMS in December 2020, and officially began in August 2023 in the state of Alabama. Prior to this project going live, AAPM&R successfully engaged with CMS and Palmetto GBA, the contractor working with CMS to administer the project in Alabama, to ensure that a full-time PM&R physician was hired to oversee the claims review process. AAPM&R has also collaborated with other stakeholder organizations, including the American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, and the American Hospital Association, to proactively and regularly engage with both CMS and Palmetto GBA to ensure that the interests of physiatrists and the patients who rely on physiatrists for their care in IRFs are taken into account as the project continues.

CMS has also announced plans for future expansion of the RCD beyond Pennsylvania and Alabama, with plans to expand the RCD to Texas and California at some point in the future. CMS has not released any details on timing for this additional future expansion, but is expected to provide at least 60 days of advance notice prior to implementation.

AAPM&R will continue to track all future developments with the RCD and provide timely updates to our members as necessary. If you are a PM&R physician in the states of Pennsylvania, Alabama, Texas or California, with questions about the IRF RCD project, please do not hesitate to contact the AAPM&R advocacy team at [healthpolicy@aapmr.org](mailto:healthpolicy@aapmr.org).

## Academy Call Fors: Opening May 29-July 10

This spring, we're offering even more opportunities for you to make your mark on the specialty while enhancing your leadership skills. Check out the call fors below and join the growing roster of Team Physiatry members contributing their time and expertise to support the mission, vision and values of the Academy.

### PHIT Council Board Nominations

Volunteering to serve on AAPM&R's Physiatrist in Training Council Board is a great opportunity to gain leadership experience as a physiatrist in-training. The PHIT Council Board is composed of 16 in-training members who gain leadership experience in various areas which help to propel their careers, make lasting professional connections and help guide the future of the specialty together.

The PHIT Council Board Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the 2024-2025 officer and committee/liason positions. Learn more about each position and apply at [aapmr.org/PHITNominations](http://aapmr.org/PHITNominations). AAPM&R is committed to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion within our volunteer leadership. All eligible residents and in-training fellow members are encouraged to apply. The submission deadline is **July 10**.

### ACGME Residency Review Committee Liaison Nominations

AAPM&R is calling for nominations for the ACGME's Residency Review Committee Liaison. Enhance your leadership experience, influence important program review and policy decisions, and connect with other PM&R leaders. Based on applicant personal statements, the PHIT Council Nominating Committee will submit their final recommendation to the ACGME for their review and selection in November 2024. Nominations for the two-year ACGME-RRC Liaison position will be accepted through **July 10**, visit [www.aapmr.org/acgmerrc](http://www.aapmr.org/acgmerrc) for more information and to apply.



### Academy in Action

**AAPM&R is Advancing Long COVID Advocacy to Position PM&R Physicians as Leaders in Multi-Disciplinary Care**

- Alba Azola, MD, FAAPMR and Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, MD, FAAPMR along with Academy staff, met with the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) to discuss the agenda for an upcoming May stakeholder summit meeting with HHS on the ongoing response to Long COVID.



### Academy in Action

**Other Advocacy Activities**

- The Academy joined a coalition letter to Congress endorsing H.R. 7050, the *Substance Use Disorder Workforce Act*, bipartisan legislation that would bolster the physician workforce and provide Medicare support for an additional 1,000 new graduate medical education (GME) positions over five years in addition or pain medicine.
- Academy staff engaged with representatives from HHS, CMS, AMA and UnitedHealth Group to learn more about the cyberattack incident impacting Change Healthcare, a division of UnitedHealth Group that manages healthcare technology pipelines connecting facilities and providers with insurers for claims and billing and has shared resources with members to assist physiatrists who have been impacted by this incident.

## Meet PM&R Aspire

### AAPM&R's New Career Exploration Platform!

We recently launched an interactive career exploration platform to help our members make better informed career decisions. The map-based platform puts you at the heart of your unique career search with valuable data, useful notifications and more personal ways to engage with employers.

**Learn more at**  
[aapmr.org/aspire](http://aapmr.org/aspire)  
and subscribe today!





# LIFE CARE PLANNING +PHYSIATRISTS

Life Care Planning is a rewarding medical-legal service for which **physiatrists** are naturally well suited.

Contact Us Today to Get Started  
**(866) 888-7352**



Physicianlcp.com

- Diversify your Physiatry practice
- Clinically challenging and gratifying
- Professionally rewarding
- Flexible and convenient
- Training, mentorship, and support
- Low liability compared to clinical medicine
- No startup costs

**San Francisco Physical Medicine Rehabilitation**, a busy private practice that provides inpatient and outpatient care, is recruiting a physician BC/BE in PM&R. The Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at the **Sutter CPMC** (48 bed CARF-accredited acute rehabilitation unit) in San Francisco is seeking an applicant to provide care on the inpatient rehabilitation units and outpatient PMR care. Strong interpersonal skills are essential. Full/ Part time job flexibility options are available.

- High Income Potential
- High Patient Volumes
- Flexible Schedules
- Hospitalist and specialty support

(Flexible/ full time PMR MD position) to provide care for an average of 15 inpatient attending and consultation and outpatient private office care. We already have a relationship with an independent billing company.

Outpatient responsibilities include providing general or specialized PMR care i.e., TBI, SCI strokes and other neurological disorders.

Located in the heart of San Francisco, there are abundant recreational, cultural and educational opportunities. Starting salary: \$265-300k.



Are you an accomplished PM&R Physiatrist with a passion for helping patients?  
*We offer no weekends and no call!*



At Barbour Orthopaedics and Spine, our innovative and well-respected team of medical professionals are part of a rapidly growing private practice.

Barbour Orthopaedics & Spine has six practice locations throughout the Atlanta metro area, including a cutting-edge surgical facility in Chamblee. We are one of the few Georgia practices to offer both a stand-up MRI and an open MRI. In addition, we have state of the art diagnostics tools including digital X-ray, ultrasound, CT scan, and hyperbaric chambers.

We are expanding our practice and have a unique opportunity for an experienced Physiatrist to join our growing Team of world class professionals.

You will work with a variety of patients and assist them in restoring optimal physical function and help them improve their quality of life. Many of our patients are affected by acute injury. The physiatrist will primarily care for patients with back and neck pain, musculoskeletal problems, and acute/sub-acute spine disorders. You will also work with patients from a diverse payor source.

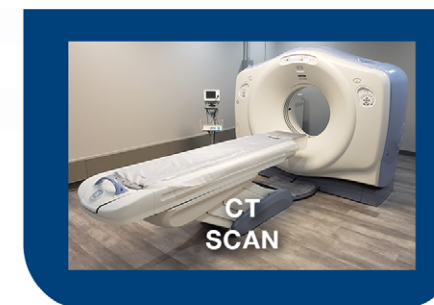
This position offers Monday-Friday office hours and no weekends or call (although weekends are available if desired). All procedures are performed in-house, and we utilize in-house imaging (x-ray, MRI and CT scanner.) We utilize a comprehensive, non-chronic opioid treatment plan to get our patients better.

### Physiatrist/PM&R Responsibilities:

- Skilled and proficient in the following:
  - o Cervical, thoracic, and lumbar epidural injections, including cervical selective nerve root blocks
  - o Cervical, thoracic, and lumbar facet injections, SIJ injections, medial branch blocks
  - o Cervical, thoracic, lumbar, and SIJ branch blocks and RFA
  - o Occipital nerve blocks
  - o Ganglion impar blocks
  - o Interarticular hip injections, piriformis injections
  - o PRP injections
- Collaborate with a team of orthopedic surgeons and interventional pain physicians
- Supervising a team of medical professionals, including physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and medical assistants
- Work in more than one of our current locations
- Willing to grow with the practice.

### Physiatrist Requirements:

- o Board Certified by The American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- o Fellowship trained in Pain Medicine or Interventional Spine (board certification a plus)
- o Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- o Personable, a team player, and possesses a passion for improving the health and well-being of their patients



NathanC@barbourortho.com  
**(678) 736-0955**

www.BarbourOrtho.com





Published 10 times a year as a service to the members of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

**PRESIDENT, AAPM&R**

D.J. Kennedy, MD, FAAPMR

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Tracy J. Sereiko, MBA, CAE

**EDITORS-IN-CHIEF, THE PHYSIATRIST**

Ai Mukai, MD, FAAPMR and

Jonathan Whiteson, MD, FAAPMR

**CONTACT**

The Physiatrist: [submissions@aapmr.org](mailto:submissions@aapmr.org)

Subscription rate for members is \$20, which is included in the dues.

Send address changes to:

The Physiatrist, 9700 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 200, Rosemont, IL 60018-5701 or [info@aapmr.org](mailto:info@aapmr.org), or update your member profile online at [www.aapmr.org](http://www.aapmr.org).





9700 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.  
Suite 200  
Rosemont, Illinois 60018  
phone (847) 737-6000  
fax (847) 754-4368  
[info@aapmr.org](mailto:info@aapmr.org)  
[www.aapmr.org](http://www.aapmr.org)


NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 6585  
CHICAGO, IL 60607

## More Free Education Coming Your Way in May!

Enjoy more free education from your PHiT Board and the Medical Education Committee. Check out our May webinars including:

- 

Wednesday, May 8 from 7-8 pm (CT)  
**NATIONAL GRAND ROUNDS: Rehabilitating Hope: Physiatrists on the Frontlines of Disaster Relief**
- 

Tuesday, May 14 at 7:15 pm (CT)  
**Medical Student Networking Session from PHiT**  
*I Just Matched into PM&R, Now What? - A Panel for Incoming PGY1s*
- 

Monday, May 20 at 7:15 pm (CT)  
**Resident Networking Session from PHiT**  
*How We Got Here and Where We are Going: A PHiT Board Discussion About Leadership*

Visit [aapmr.org/membermay](http://aapmr.org/membermay) for the full schedule and get connected to the best-of-the-best PM&R-focused education from your peers!

